

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 03626 171433Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 PM-07 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 MBFR-03 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 113527

O 171345Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1852

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3626

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, NL, MARR, MASS, MCAP, PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEFMIN VREDELING, AUGUST 22

REF: THE HAGUE 3512

1. SUMMARY. VREDELING RETURNED TO THE HAGUE ON AUG 14, BUT DOES NOT PLAN TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF VISIT WITH MEMBERS OF MOD STAFF UNTIL MONDAY, AUG 20. ALL BRIEFING MATERIALS HAVE BEEN SENT ON TO HIM, HOWEVER, AND WE WERE GIVEN RUNDOWN ON ITEMS BY MOD OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF PREPARING VISIT (RUSSEL). LATTER ALSO GAVE US HIS BEST ESTIMATE OF WHAT VREDELING WILL BE INTERESTED IN. RUSSEL EMPHASIZED THAT MOD ATTACHES GREAT VALUE TO TRIP, PARTICULARLY AS INFO GATHERED WILL BE USEFUL TO VREDELING IN INTRA-CABINET DEBATES ON FUTURE OF NETHS DEFENSE EFFORT. CHARGE, IN LETTER HAND-DELIVERED TO VREDELING AUG. 17, OFFERED TO CONVEY ANY SPECIAL REQUESTS OR MESSAGES VREDELING MAY HAVE IN PREPARATION FOR VISIT. THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS REFTEL. ALTHOUGH MOD THINKING ON BURDEN-SHARING APPEARS TO HAVE ADVANCED SOME-

WHAT SINCE PREPARATION OF REFTEL (THEREFORE PERMITTING MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSAL THAN WE HAD THOUGHT POSSIBLE AT THAT TIME),
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 03626 171433Z

VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN REFTEL ARE STILL VALID. END SUMMARY.

2. DATT AND ACTING POL COUNS HAD MEETING AUGUST 16 WITH MOD OFFICER IN CHARGE OF PREPARING VREDELING VISIT (RUSSEL). RUSSEL SAID THAT VREDELING WILL NOT MEET WITH HIS STAFF UNTIL MONDAY AUGUST 20 TO DISCUSS VISIT AS HE IS BUSY CATCHING UP AFTER VACATION AND HAS ALSO REIMMERSED HIMSELF IN REMAINING DETAILS CONNECTED WITH SUBMISSION IN SEPTEMBER OF 1974 DEFENSE BUDGET. RUSSEL INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THREE MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST FOR VREDELING ARE VERY LIKELY TO BE U.S. BURDEN SHARING PROPOSAL, NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY INITIATED BY NETHERLANDS, AND NETHERLANDS DEFENSE BUDGET FOR 1974 AND BEYOND. RUSSEL SAID THAT VREDELING WILL ALSO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION OF U.S. INTENTIONS RE "MINI-NUKES" DESPITE FACT THAT HE (RUSSEL) WAS TOLD U.S. POSITION ON SUBJECT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED SHORTLY TO MFA IN RESPONSE TO LATTER'S REQUEST (INFO CONTAINED STATE 161775 AND 149007 WAS HAND DELIVERED TO RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICER AUGUST 17 WITH REQUEST THAT VREDELING BE INFORMED BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR WASHINGTON). RUSSEL SAID THAT HE AND OTHERS ON MOD STAFF LOOK UPON VISIT AS VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR VREDELING TO OBTAIN AMMUNITION TO CARRY ON FLIGHT IN CABINET FOR A RESPONSIBLE NETHERLANDS DEFENSE POLICY.

3. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING BRIEFINGS ON ABOVE SUBJECTS AND THOSE REPORTEDLY PROPOSED BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER (PARA 1, REFTTEL) MOD HAS ALSO PREPARED BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS FOR VREDELING ON MBFR, SALT, STATE OF THE ALLIANCE IN GENERAL, FOLLOW-UP TO FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS MADE BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AT JUNE 7 DPC, ROLE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS (IN ADDITION TO QUESTION OF "MINI-NUKES"), ATLANTIC RELATIONS, AND ICELAND. DETAILED COMMENTS GIVEN BY RUSSEL ON THE THREE MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST TO VREDELING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

4. BURDEN SHARING. RUSSEL EXPECTS THAT VREDELING WILL BE SYMPATHETIC (AS HE WAS AT JUNE DPC) TO US PROPOSAL ON BURDEN SHARING AND, IN PARTICULAR, WILL LIKELY SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF MULTILATERAL APPROACH. IN THIS CONNECTION, RUSSEL SAID THAT VREDELING WILL PROBABLY INDICATE DUTCH PREFERENCE FOR DIRECT FINANCIAL PAYMENT RATHER THAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 03626 171433Z

SPECIFIC PROJECTS SUCH AS LOCAL WQGE COSTS. VREDELING MAY ALSO BRING UP QUESTION OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION AND POINT OUT DIFFICULTY INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN SOME AREAS. IF FRENCH ARE NOT ON BOARD. RUSSEL DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT VREDELING WOULD TAKE LINE THAT BURDEN-SHARING EXERCISE IS CONDITIONAL IN ANY WAY ON FRENCH PARTICIPATION. RUSSEL SAID THAT FINAL DECISION ON DUTCH CONTRIBUTION TO ANY MULTILATERAL SCHEME DEVELOPED BY THE EUROPEANS WILL BE A CABINET AND

NOT STRICTLY A DEFENSE MINISTRY DECISION AND THAT PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED WITH FINANCE MINISTRY. RUSSEL ALSO SAID THAT IT WOULD BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC TO EXPECT THAT EUROPEANS WOULD BE ABLE TO DEVELOP PROGRAM TO COVER FULL AMOUNT OF EXTRA BUDGETARY COSTS INCURRED BY US IN STATIONING FORCES IN EUROPE AND WONDERED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE JUST AS EFFECTIVE WITH US CONGRESS IF EUROPEANS WERE TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF MAKING CONTRIBUTION TOWARD CUTTING THAT DEFICIT BY, SAY, CONTRIBUTING \$200 MILLION RATHER THAN FULL \$440 MILLION MENTIONED BY US. RUSSEL CONCLUDED REMARKS ON BURDEN SHARING BY SAYING THAT DEFENSE MINISTRY ALSO SUPPORTS PRINCIPLE OF US PROPOSAL RE A SEPARATE EUROPEAN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM BUT ONLY DIFFERS WITH THE US ON THE FEASIBLE SIZE OF SUCH A PROGRAM.

5. NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY. RUSSEL SAID THAT VREDELING WILL UNDOUBTEDLY STRESS IMPORTANCE OF ATTACHES TO THIS STUDY, PARTICULARLY IMPLICATIONS IT HAS FOR CONTINUED ABILITY OF NETHERLANDS TO MAINTAIN A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO NATO DEFENSE IN FACE OF EXPECTED SHARPLY RISING COST OF DEFENSE IN COMING YEARS. VREDELING IS EAGER TO INCLUDE NETHERLANDS NAVY IN THE NATO STUDY EVEN THOUGH NETHS NAVY CONTRIBUTION FALLS UNDER SACLANCANT RATHER THAN SACEUR CONTROL AND IS THEREFORE NOT PART OF CENTRAL REGION. RUSSEL POINTED OUT THAT THIS SPLIT COMMAND CONTROL IS ANOMALOUS AND THAT PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS VREDELING WANTS TO HAVE ROLES OF ALL THREE SERVICES EXAMINED BY NATO. INCLUSION OF NETHS NAVY IN NATO STUDY WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL, RUSSEL SAID, IN ENSURING THAT NAVY PRIORITIES ARE GIVEN EQUAL CONSIDERATION AS OTHER TWO SERVICES IN DIVIDING UP FUTURE NETHS DEFENSE BUDGETS. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, DATT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 THE HA 03626 171433Z

LEARNED THAT RNLN WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SECDEF EMPHASIZE NETHS RETENTION OF LRMP ROLE.

6. DUTCH DEFENSE BUDGET. RUSSEL SAID THAT VREDELING WILL PROBABLY POINT OUT CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NETHS DEFENSE BUDGET FOR 1974 AND BEYOND AND NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY. 1974 WILL BE THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE "SPECIAL" BUDGET YEAR FOR DEFENSE MINISTRY IN WHICH BUDGET IS NOT RELATED TO A MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM. RUSSEL SAID THAT VREDELING WILL PROBABLY EXPLAIN THAT THE 1974 BUDGET BEING SUBMITTED THIS SEPTEMBER WILL BE A PROVISIONAL BUDGET WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE REVISED AFTER CONTENTS OF FIRST NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY HAVE BEEN FACTORED INTO DUTCH DEFENSE WHITE PAPER, WHICH RUSSEL EXPECTED WOULD BE PUBLISHED EARLY IN 1974. RUSSEL CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS

(REFTEL) THAT 1974 DEFENSE BUDGET WILL BE INCREASED BY 208 MILLION GULDERS OVER 1973 BUDGET. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE ORIGINAL 1973 BUDGET WAS REDUCED BY APPROXIMATELY 80 MILLION GULDERS, THE NET INCREASE OVER THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT WILL ONLY BE IN AREA OF 130 MILLION GULDERS (REPRESENTING LESS THAN 3 PERCENT RISE OVER EXPECTED FINAL DEFENSE EXPENDITURES FOR 1973). IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS, RUSSEL SAID THAT 1974 BUDGET WILL INCLUDE AN ITEM FOR INITIAL COSTS RELATING TO PROCUREMENT OF FOLLOW-ON AIRCRAFT FOR F-104G, BU QUICKLY ADDED THAT THAT ITEM WAS PROVISIONAL DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF NATO STUDY. RUSSEL ALSO SAID THAT NO ITEM HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN BUDGET FOR LANCE NOR FOR ANY ALTERNATIVE TASK THAT NETHS ARMED FORCES MIGHT TAKE ON AS COMPENSATION FOR DROPPING ROLE CURRENTLY BEING PLAYED BY HONEST JOHN. RUSSEL EXPLAINED IN THIS REGARD THAT ALL ITEMS THAT THREE SERVICES WANTED INCLUDED AS PROVISIONAL ITEMS IN BUDGET COULD NOT BE INCLUDED AND INTIMATED THAT DELETION OF LANCE FELL IN THIS CATEGORY RATHER THAN BEING DELETED BECAUSE GON HAD ALREADY MADE DECISION NOT TO ACQUIRE LANCE.

7. IN ADDITION TO VREDELING, OTHER MEMBERS OF PARTY WILL BE LT.GENERAL W. VAN RIJN, CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE, VICE ADMIRAL J.C.H. VAN DEN BERGH OF MOD MATERIEL COUNCIL, BRIG. GENERAL J.W.F. HOFFMAN, HEAD, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 THE HA 03626 171433Z

MOD OFFICE OF GENERAL AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, AND BARON DE VOS VAN STEENWIJK, DEPUTY HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY NATO/WEU DIVISION. BLODGETT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THEHA03626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BLODGETT
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730830/aaaaavmf.tel
Line Count: 205
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: THE HAGUE 3512
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <05-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF DEFMIN VREDELING, AUGUST 22
TAGS: OVIP, MARR, MASS, MCAP, PARM, NL, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005